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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, 1905.

The Prospect at Mukden.

Advices from the far Orient today confirm yesterday's news that the Russians must withdraw from Mukden. If they do not, it seems to be the judgment of creditable authorities that General Kuropatkin must lose by capture and death thousands of his troops. Mukden, according to these commentators, is soon to rank beside Liao-Yang as one of the greatest disasters the Muscovite empire has ever endured.

The weight of expectation is that this defeat may bring matters to a crisis. While the ground for this position is hard to understand, it is devotedly to be hoped the ground exists. This for two reasons—first, that the slaughter of human beings by the hundred may be brought to an end, and thus cease discrediting our civilization; second, that the war may not deteriorate into a mere contest of resources, whereby not valor, or skill, or patriotism, or justice may win, but financial credit and international discounts.

Word comes from Japan every little while of the heroic sacrifices made by the children of the Mikado. Family treasures are sold for a song; ancestral images are offered in the open market; daily food is reduced to the last limit of sustaining power, in order that the troops may keep in the field. In another year, perhaps, Japan must withdraw and forfeit all the fruits of her victories. That, the American people think, would be the least desirable way possible of bringing the war to a close.

Delicate Ethics.

Certain journals are endeavoring to open discussion of the question whether a woman owes to the man she marries an account of her past.

Apparently, this is a matter between the man and the woman, and comes so near not being the business of the outsider that delicacy suggests the subject be let alone. It is not to be supposed that either partner in a wedding compact is taking the other absolutely on faith. The very fact of such acquaintance as is the almost invariable preliminary to a visit, to the altar, argues some mutual familiarity with records. The party with a past so dark that the revelation of it would be ruinous, is only acting in accord with the law of self-preservation in keeping it concealed. People marry not for what the chosen one has been, but is, and expects to be.

The term "past" is vague. Few people marry the first person with whom they have imagined themselves in love. Thus, all come to the matrimonial climax with a sort of "past." When the young man asks the young woman if she ever has been kissed, he is tempting her to lie rather than to tell him that which he ought to understand does not concern him. When he is asked by her if he ever loved before, of course, he rolls his eyes to heaven and makes a negative declaration, which is false. She either knows that it is false or that she has caught a chump, neither hypothesis affording a valuable satisfaction.

Probably, the person of either sex with a past bad enough to hurt much could not keep the truth a secret. Mrs. Chadwick being a notable exception. People who marry those they know should not think it necessary to dig up records. Suspicion is a slender basis upon which to build happiness. If either party at interest is troubled by doubts, the nice course is to break away and find in single blessedness such bliss as may be there.

Uncovering American Riches.

An exquisite porcelain manufactured in Cincinnati is from first to last the result of one woman's genius and patience. In 1877, Miss M. Louise McLaughlin discovered the secret of underglaze decoration, but her greater achievement is the production of an absolutely new porcelain—the result of her own unaided experiments throughout a number of years fraught with discouraging failures.

While this recipe gives its originator perfect satisfaction, she is constantly developing color effects, perfecting details, such as translucent glazes, and inlays used in the body of the vase.

So says the Pilgrim for March, presenting thereby a record of feminine ingenuity and persistence which must hold the attention of male artisans everywhere. The pottery which Miss McLaughlin brought into existence is well known. But it is not well known that before this woman devoted her courage to the task the clay from which beautiful vases are now made baked itself red on the hills around Cincinnati, berated, despised, ridiculed.

Other Americans have been putting other clays to similar use. In New England are three or four potteries

of fine artistic value. Mississippi is training boys and girls who have heretofore hunted for work in vain to make dignified wearable clay vessels out of the State's common soil. Arizona and the Southwest have been making strong, picturesque potteries for centuries—how many, no one knows. And now the West, with a whole catalogue of smooth, clean clays, is entering the field victoriously.

All this is well for the American home. After a while there will be fewer spurious vases of Bohemian glass and more genuine solid clay pottery. We have been given to trashy articles of supposed vertu too long. What the nation needs is a little of the spirit which makes the Chinese say:

If you have two loaves of bread, sell one, and buy a lily.

Dull Finish Needed.

Your furniture dealer is saying these days that the indefinite but all powerful "they" are buying no furniture excepting that with a "dull finish." "Golden oak," "sixteenth century oak," "plano finish," and all the rest of them have been relegated to the cellar. "Dull finish" is the only furniture "they" are buying, and so you buy it also, or you do without.

On the whole, the change is welcome. According to the furniture salesman—and he ought to know—you cannot put a glass of water on any of the other finishes without leaving a stain; a scratch cannot be rubbed out; a hot plate signs its name in indelible ink. The dull finish is made for usable furniture—not for looking glasses.

But furniture is not the only thing, these days, which needs a dull finish. If the District Commissioners were to dispense with a little of the luster surrounding their communications among themselves, they might accomplish things more directly, instead of delaying snow-law orders, for example, until a judge on the Court of Appeals was involved.

If the Canal Commission were to tone down its finish, it might really make American progress down in Panama as American progress is made everywhere else, with a minimum of fuss and a maximum of result.

If the Spanish Treaty Claims Commission were to dim its shining glory for a while, there might be more findings and fewer volumes of testimony as to the age of Senor Somebody's cow or the number of flowers in Senora Somebody Else's garden.

If Congress—dear old democratic Congress—were to shear away some of its fuss and feathers, there might be fewer junketing trips, fewer double salaries to employees, fewer allotments to messengers which are paid to members, fewer "swaps" of private claims, fewer retainers as attorneys, fewer indictments for fraud, fewer descents of many kinds from the dignity and credit of the office which these members hold.

These are only a few of the good things which more business-like methods might bring. This "dull finish" business is all very well. But it does not go far enough.

Points in Paragraphs.

Colorado senators assert they have been bribed to support Governor Adams. Why not count the votes and let the result go at that.

One has to read the Japanese reports, then the Russian, and strike an average. For a man whose funeral was mentioned several months ago, Kuroki is active enough to be classed as pernicious.

Kansas and Mr. Garfield look upon the Beef trust from different points of view. Cuba has just had the first snowstorm in seventy-seven years, giving the oldest inhabitant something to talk about.

Hon. Levi P. Morton is making a praiseworthy effort to divorce his ex-in-law from certain good American really.

A scientist declares that men might live 150 years. But they won't if they can help it.

The Paper trust seems to be another of those innocent institutions in business for the sake of the good it can do its neighbors.

One Kirkman wants to resign from the army, but this is not exactly the process by which he cannot be ejected.

Ex-Senator Cannon has been expelled from the Mormon Church. He's a pretty big gun, large caliber, and long range, and this won't spike him.

SIR MARCH.

Sir March, you're a blustering fellow, With riotous, rollicking ways! Why can't you be genial and mellow, And give us a few pleasant days?

Your winds are a mounted battalion, With sabers of icicles keen, And it's ho, for a charge from the Northland, And a battle with forces unseen.

You rattle our doors and our windows, And challenge us all to come out, And then when we venture to brave you, You buffet and beat us about.

And you smile with a glimmer of sunshine, Then pelt us with snow and with sleet, Till we shrink from your boisterous caresses.

And hastily beat a retreat, And it's ho, for a romp and a frolic, And it's ho, for a rout and a roar, But we know that for all of your bluster, You are friendly and true to the core.

And though April is tearful and tender, And May is both charming and arch, By the bloodstone that glows in your helmet, We pledge you allegiance, Sir March.

—Elizabeth Clarke Hardy, in The Ladies' World

IN THE CIRCLE OF SOCIETY

LENT FALLS HARD ON YOUNG PEOPLE

Their Particular Form of Gayety Barred.

DINNERS AND TEAS FOR OLD

Mrs. Fairbanks Guest of Honor at Luncheon—Senator Elkins Entertains Cardinal Gibbons.

Lent promises to be a hard school for only the young society people of Washington, as dinners, luncheons, teas, card parties—bridge, especially—musical and other forms of entertainment adapted to the more sedate members, will continue on just as though the world were not in sackcloth and ashes for a period. Dinner parties may be smaller and less formal, but they will be even more frequent now that the round of official calls are over.

As usual, the harvest of charities, bazaars, teas, and other entertainments will set in right lustily, and from this source the younger set of society will gather much of their real fun while working for others. The Fair of Nations will be about the first event along this line to attract society people, and will be given at Rauscher's March 11.

Mrs. Fairbanks, wife of the Vice President, was the guest for whom Mrs. Raymond entertained at luncheon today. Those to meet her were Mrs. Day, Mrs. Foraker, Mrs. Cullom, Mrs. Yerkes, Mrs. Boutell, Mrs. Cyrus Turner, of New York; Mrs. W. A. Phillips, of Evanston, Ill.; Mrs. Patterson's house guests; and Mrs. Sidney Williams and Mrs. Henry M. Hyde, both of Chicago.

For the ninth time this season President and Mrs. Roosevelt were the guests of a Cabinet member's family, the dinner last night being given at the Arlington by Secretary of Commerce and Labor and Mrs. McCall. Those invited to be with the President and Mrs. Roosevelt were Speaker Cannon, Senator and Mrs. Elkins, Senator and Mrs. Elkins, Senator and Mrs. Elkins, Representative and Mrs. Charles M. Fowler, Mr. and Mrs. Wayne McVeigh, General and Mrs. McVeigh, Mr. William Sheffield Cowles, Mr. and Mrs. Gardner Williams, of Chicago; the Assistant Secretary of Commerce and Labor, Miss Chabot, and the Hon. L. O. Murray.

Cardinal Guest of Honor.

Cardinal Gibbons was the guest for whom Senator and Mrs. Stephen B. Elkins gave a dinner last night, inviting besides Vice President and Mrs. Fairbanks, the French Ambassador and Mme. Jusserand, Justice and Mrs. White, Justice and Mrs. McKenna, Senator Foster, Senator and Mrs. Talliaferro, Representative Bourke Cockran, Senator Davis, Mrs. Audenried, Mrs. Stanley Matthews, Mrs. Sheridan, and Miss Elkins.

Mr. and Mrs. de Koven entertained at a dinner party last night, when the guests were the Secretary of War, Mr. Taft, Mr. and Mrs. Hays, Senator and Mrs. Elkins, Mr. and Mrs. Elkins, the Belgian Minister, Mr. and Mrs. Elkins, Mr. John Nicholas Brown, Colonel Foster, Frederic May, and Mme. Wagner.

Dr. and Mrs. Marcus Benjamin entertained at the third of a series of dinners last night. They will give a small dinner party evening.

The Misses Patten entertained a large dinner party last night. Mrs. Myron M. Parker entertained at luncheon yesterday in honor of her daughters, Mrs. C. Neale and Mrs. Spencer Blackburn.

Andrew D. White Entertained.

Senator and Mrs. Foraker entertained at dinner last evening in honor of the Hon. Andrew D. White, former Ambassador to Germany, and Mrs. White, who are making a short visit in Washington. To meet these guests were Senator and Mrs. Hale, Senator and Mrs. Cullom, Senator Allison, Senator Bacon, Mr. and Mrs. John E. Henderson, Mr. and Mrs. Bodman, Mr. and Mrs. Elkins, Mr. and Mrs. Pears, of England; Mr. and Mrs. King, of New York; and Mrs. Foraker, who expected to spend this week in Ohio, has deferred her departure until Thursday.

Mrs. J. Ellen Foster gave a small dinner last evening in honor of Miss Margaret S. Roberts of Idaho. All the guests were women, and the dinner party, while small in numbers, was exceedingly enjoyable, as the women followed the example of the dinner-going husbands and brothers and "grindoned" each other in the most approved style when the time came to respond. In spite of that feature of it, each one managed to get in some good things on the topic allotted her before she was applauded down by the others.

The dinner was essentially a Roosevelt dinner, and the toasts were responded to as follows: "Roosevelt, The Man," Mrs. Mary S. Lockwood; "The Student," Miss Elkins; "The Politician," Miss Helen Varick; "The Soldier," Miss Margaret Roberts; "The Governor," Mrs. Elkins; "The Diplomat," Miss Mary Wood; "How the British Regard Roosevelt," Miss Laura Hanson; "Why the Women Voted for Roosevelt," Miss Margaret S. Roberts, and "The President of the United States," Mrs. Foster.

The table was decorated entirely in red and white, and the floral decorations of both drawing and dining rooms were red and white roses and carnations. The sherbet was served in cups whose tops were decorated with the flag, eagle, and Liberty Bell, the ices were red and white, surmounted by tiny silk flags. The name cards were clever pen and ink reproductions of Berryman's "Little Bear" in attitudes suggestive of the toasts to which each lady was to respond.

SENATE QUICKLY TURNS TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Senate was in open session less than five minutes after convening at noon today. The greater part of this time was taken up by the chaplain's prayer.

Sixteen Senators were on the floor when the gavel fell at noon and twenty when the Senate, on motion of Mr. Gallinger, agreed to go into executive session.

The only business transacted was the introduction of Mr. Blackburn of Kentucky directing the Secretary of State to reopen the case of A. H. Lazarre against the Republic of Haiti. On request of the Kentucky Senator, his resolution was referred to the Foreign Relations Committee.



MRS. JOSEPH BENSON FORAKER.
Wife of Senator From Ohio in the Much-Admired Gown She Wore to the Inaugural Ball.

KOGORO TAKAHIRA PLANS RECEPTION

Guests to Be Largely Members of Congress.

SOCIAL GOSSIP OF THE DAY

Women of the D. A. R. Gathering for Coming Convention—Inaugural Visitors Leaving Town.

The Japanese legation will be opened for a large official reception on Friday night of this week, with Minister Kogoro Takahira as the host. The reception has been planned and the guests invited in honor largely of the members of Congress, many of whom are about to leave the city. However, it is not officially so designated, because of the limitations put upon ambassadors in accepting hospitality when a guest of honor is named.

The host's colleagues of the corps, with a few exceptions, and a large part of official Washington are likely to be numbered among the hospitable minister's guests on that occasion.

Inaugural visitors are fast leaving the city, and those who did not entertain guests, but who themselves took a short trip, are returning.

Mrs. J. L. Loose, of Chicago, who has spent the winter in Washington as the guest of the Speaker of the House and Miss Cannon, and who was joined in inauguration week by Mr. Loose, left Washington today for a two-weeks' visit to New York. Mrs. Loose will stop here again on her way West, and will be a guest at the New Willard.

Mr. and Mrs. E. X. LeSeure, who were also the guests of the Speaker and Miss Cannon, have gone to New York for a visit. Miss Cannon will probably remain here until the middle of the month.

Mrs. Greenleaf W. Simpson, vice president general, D. A. R., of Brookline, Mass., and Mrs. Charles A. West, vice State regent, of Summerville, Mass., are at the New Willard.

Other prominent women of the D. A. R. who are now in the city are Mrs. Charles Warren Lippitt, Providence, R. I., State regent; Mrs. Julius J. Ester, vice president general, from Vermont; and Mrs. Charles H. Terry, of Brooklyn, State regent, of New York, who is stopping at the New Willard.

Signor Montagna Sails.
Signor Montagna, of the Italian embassy, sailed from New York yesterday on the North German Lloyd steamer "Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse," and will be absent for about two months.

Mrs. Joseph McCall McCormick, who has been the guest of her mother, Mrs. Mark Hanna, has returned to her home in Chicago.

Lord George Gordon and Lady Lenox left Washington yesterday for the South and will spend some time at Aiken, S. C.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Schanfelder and Miss Pearl Schanfelder, of Baltimore, and John T. Edwards, of Cumberland, Md., have been the guests, during the inaugural ceremonies, of Miss Mary F. Miller, of 21 1/2 street northeast.

Mrs. William Gray and Miss Eunice P. Gray, of North Tonawanda, N. Y., were the inaugural guests of Leon W. Gray, of 925 H street northwest. They will remain in the city about ten weeks before returning to their home.

Miss Edna Blanton, of Richmond, Va., is visiting Mrs. W. S. Bronson, of 1115 Kennebec street.

Visiting at Old Point.
Mrs. Sidney Kaufman, of 1713 U street northwest, is away on a trip to Old Point Comfort and Norfolk, where she will visit her brother, Albert Sigmund, formerly of this city.

Mr. and Mrs. Edw. S. Schmid entertained a few of their young friends at their residence, 712 Twelfth street northwest, last evening, the occasion being the birthday anniversary of their daughter Florence. The decorations were pink carnations. The party spent the evening in singing and games, during which refreshments were served. Those present were Misses Jeanette E. Wolf, Alice M. Barlett, Lucy Patton, Nonie Payne,

MOTHERS' CONGRESS ASSEMBLES FRIDAY

One Week's Session—Large Attendance Promised—Many Important Subjects With Child Life to Be Debated.

The Congress of Mothers will assemble in Washington on Friday morning for a session of one week. Delegates from every State in the Union will be here, and the attendance promises to be larger than at any former convention of the organization.

Friday's session will begin with an address by G. Stanley Hall, president of Clark University, on "New Ideals of Motherhood Caused by Child Study." Saturday afternoon a reception will be given by the officers of the congress at the Raleigh. On Saturday evening will be held the juvenile course conference, at which many speakers will tell of the work in the religious represented by the children.

Sunday the religious education of children will be discussed, among the speakers being Bishop Satterlee, Dr. McKim, Rabbi Krauskopf, and Mrs. Charles Thorpe, president of the New Century Club, of Philadelphia.

Reception at White House.
The feature of Monday will be the reception at the White House given to the members of the congress by Mrs. Roosevelt. At the meeting on Monday evening the President will speak. On Tuesday Senator La Follette will speak on "The Purity of the Home," and Senator McLaughlin will address the conference on the Mormon question and the divorce laws. Mrs. Herman H. Birney, of Philadelphia, will also speak at Tuesday's session.

On Tuesday the members of the congress will take a trip to Mount Vernon. The board of managers, composed of the general officers, the presidents of each State organization, and the chairmen of standing committees, will hold executive meetings March 10 and 11.

The Illinois delegation of forty women left Chicago this morning on a special car over the Chesapeake and Ohio road, and is due to arrive here tomorrow night. Among the Chicago delegates are Mrs. Charles Grace and Mrs. Catherine Davis, from the Englewood Woman's Club; Dr. Bern Hamilton, of the Englewood High School Parents' Club; and Mrs. Kennedy, from the Rogers Park Parents' Club.

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Wednesday will be international day, and representatives of a great number of nations will tell of the work among children in the countries they represent. On Thursday Mrs. Henry Parsons, of New York, will speak on "School Gardens," and Dr. D. J. Shearer, of New Jersey, on "Moral Education." In the evening William H. Tamins will address the congress on "Music and Education."

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